



The Honorable Tom Wheeler, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW, Washington, DC 20554

November 17, 2015

Dear Chairman Wheeler:

Polaris is a leader in the global fight to eradicate modern slavery. Our comprehensive three-part model systematically disrupts human trafficking by: 1) responding to victims of human trafficking effectively and immediately; 2) equipping key stakeholders and communities to address and prevent human trafficking; and 3) disrupting the business of human trafficking through targeted campaigns.

Polaris uses text messaging, including our short code "BeFree" (233733) to allow victims to confidentially reach the National Human Trafficking Resource Center Hotline and receive help or connection to local services.

Text messaging is one of the most ubiquitous and discrete ways for individuals to communicate with services of their choosing, and we write today to express concern over unfettered text message filtering.

Arbitrary message filtering on public service applications such as ours can have profound negative impacts on the individual and on our communities.

Public service organizations like Polaris are leading the charge in employing innovative technology to help save lives.

We call on the Federal Communications Commission to declare that mobile messaging services are critical to the public interest as telecommunications services under Title II of the Communications Act, and to protect users of text messages from unreasonable interference.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Brad Myles", is written over a light blue circular background.

Bradley Myles
Chief Executive Officer

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